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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Miyuki SASAKI, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2161

Appl. No. : 09/764,991

Examiner:

Filed : January 23, 2001

For : DATA STORAGE MEDIUM, DATA RECORDING AND
REPRODUCING METHOD, AND DATA RECORDING AND
REPRODUCING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants
hereby bring the following materials to the Examiner's attention:

European Patent Application EP 507397 A2, published October 7, 1992;

European Patent Application EP 730274 A2, published September 4, 1996;

European Patent Application EP 676761 A1, published October 11, 1995; and

A copy of an International Search Report, dated November 9, 1999, with respect to
counterpart International Patent Application PCT/JP99/03950, in which the Patent Examiner
cited the following documents:

P20481.A01

Japanese Patent Publication JP 7-168749 A, published July 4, 1995, accompanied by an English language abstract, citing paragraph nos. 0172-0173 as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art) with respect to claims 1,6, 11, 16 and 21; and citing paragraph nos. 0172-0173 as an "A" category document (i.e., a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance) with respect to claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20 and 22-27;

European Patent Application EP 333165 A2, published September 20, 1989, citing the full text as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art) with respect to claims 1,6, 11, 16 and 21; and citing the full text as an "A" category document (i.e., a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance) with respect to claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20 and 22-27;

U.S. Patent No. 5210734, to SAKURAI, issued May 11, 1993, citing the full text as an "A" category document (i.e., a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance) with respect to claims 1-27;

P20481.A01

Japanese Patent Publication JP 2-132516 A, published May 22, 1990, accompanied by an English language abstract, citing pages 3-4 as an "A" category document (i.e., a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance) with respect to claims 1-27; and

Japanese Patent Publication JP 5-94675 A, published April 16, 1993, citing paragraph nos. 0030-0031 as an "A" category document (i.e., a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance) with respect to claims 1-27.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite the above documents. Copies of the above-noted publication, patents and abstracts are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form, which is also attached hereto. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

P20481.A01

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/787,427 in the names of Miyuki SASAKI et al., filed on March 23, 2001, and entitled "Data Storage Medium, Data Recording and Reproducing Method, and Data Recording and Reproducing Apparatus."

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-noted patent application, as filed, is attached hereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Miyuki SASAKI et al.

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April 23, 2001
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